



OFFICE OF CONSUMER PROTECTION

Marc Elrich  
*County Executive*

Eric Friedman  
*Director*

November 18, 2019

The Honorable Ellen L. Weintraub, Esq.  
Chair  
Federal Elections Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20463

RE: Phony Political Action Committees  
Fraudulent Solicitations

Dear Commissioner Weintraub:

It was enlightening to hear your interview on the PBS News Hour in which you advised that the Federal Elections Commission is the original "follow the money agency."

This is to request that the Federal Elections Commission investigate what appears to be a nationwide fraudulent practice in which phony Political Action Committees engage in deceptive fundraising solicitations to supposedly benefit phony organizations with charitable-sounding names.

In 2018, the Department of Justice, United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York, filed criminal charges against a Political Action Committee in what it described as the "...first-ever federal criminal prosecution of fraudulent scam PACs..."

Enclosed is a copy of our News Release regarding our investigation of, and settlement with, a Political Action Committee that was soliciting donations in Montgomery County, Maryland. Please feel free to have your staff contact me if your office would like any additional information. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Eric S. Friedman  
Director

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